

100091



Mr. Eric Kauffman
United States Army
Environmental Office
ENVR-EH
Washington, D.C. 20310-2600
[MFR; (703) 696-8078 / fax:8088]

22 June 1992

RE; Skinner Landfill - Union Township, Butler County, Ohio

Dear Mr. Kauffman,

Thank you for your time and advice on the phone this date regarding my inquiry. As you have requested, I am providing you background information herewith to further explain the nature of our concerns. Since I made a number of contacts prior to knowing of the existence of your office, this initial letter will probably contain a large amount of information, disjointed but necessary to you - so here goes.

I am the Township Administrator (Manager) of Union Township, Butler County, Ohio, an unincorporated community of approx. 40,000 just northeast of the City of Cincinnati, Ohio. I have been here for 2 years.

In 1976 our Fire Department was called to extinguish a chemical fire at a local private dump known as "Skinner's Landfill". Subsequent investigation revealed that the dump had been extensively used for many years as a private illegal hazardous waste disposal site.

USEPA, Ohio EPA, and local authorities investigated the site resulting in its ultimate designation as a USEPA Superfund Cleanup Site. Preliminary site investigation was done by USEPA, and a Health Risk Assessment is currently underway by the USATSDR. Five remediation options have been proposed by USEPA, and the Community is currently reviewing those options with USEPA.

Data collection involving the site including; public statements at hearings, private statements made by the owner of the landfill and his son, as well as some court testimony raised the possibility that US Army Ordnance of some type was disposed of at the landfill sometime between 1940 and 1976 which is the year the fill was closed.

The landfill owner, Mr. John Skinner and a Mr. Albert Skinner had made comments to a local reporter from the Cincinnati Enquirer (Mr. John Clark - (513) 860-7117) that he (The Skinner's) had a "secret contract with the government). This statement was reportedly made after the 1976 fire.

Mr. John Skinner and his son Albert Skinner have both made comments that Ordnance including "nerve gas and mustard gas was buried at the site". Albert Skinner made these same comments to me and our Police Chief in 1991.

A Mr. Joe Feiertag from the Journal News (513) 863-8200 related that he spoke to Mr. Mark Lehar (previously of the USEPA) who reportedly stated that there was a "50/50 chance of military Ordnance dumped at the fill; and if its there, it'll be in the northeast corner of the fill". Mr. Feiertag also related stories of a "Fire in an armory in Sharonville Ohio"; and that debris from that fire was allegedly dumped in the fill.

A private citizen, Mr. Bill Buchold (513) 777-08309 has shared with me that he has spoke with a number of local citizens who reportedly have knowledge of military dumping at the fill; who however will not speak to him on the record.

Several other persons in addition to the above have brought the possibility of "military Ordnance" existing at the site.

As the Township Administrator I am faced with the certainty that members of my staff will have contact with the clean up effort in whatever form it takes; which will undoubtedly include a large amount of excavation and core sampling / extraction. My immediate concern is the possibility, (however remote) that ordnance or gaseous weaponry is existent on the Skinner Site posing a health risk to my employees. Further, and perhaps foremost, there is a populated area including an elementary school within 1500 feet of the cleanup site presenting an unspeakable potential for disaster if such conditions in fact do exist.

Prior to my being knowledgeable of your office I have made contact with the following Federal Agencies and Department of the Army Offices. For the sake of courtesy I am copying them on this correspondence and on future correspondence. If they so request, I will let them know that your office is working on my inquiry.

ATTN: DLA-B
Mr. Larry Wilson
Defense Logistics Agency
Cameron Station
Alexandria, VA ~~22304~~
(703) 274-6135 228011-6100

Department of the Army
Office of the Inspector
General / DA-IGA
Washington, D.C. 20310-1700
(703) 695-1500

Chief of Engineers
US Army Environmental Office
HAZMAT Management Div.
HQDA-OCE
Attn: ENZR
Pentagon - Room 1E685
Washington, D.C. 20310-2600
(703) 696-8078

Environmental Response
Information Exchange
DAEN-ZCE
Pentagon Rm #1E685
Wash, D.C. 20310-2600
(703) 693-4635

Defense Stockpile Agency
D.L.A.
3200 Sheffield Ave.
Hammond, In 46327
Attn: Dennis Lynch
(219) 937-5279

Congressman John Boehner
5617 Liberty-Fairfield Rd
Hamilton, OH 45011
-or-
1020 Longworth Bldg.
Wash, D.C. 20515

Mr. Bob Fisher (XI)
GSA Public Affairs
Wash, D.C. 20405
(202) 501-1231

Information about the supposed source of the alleged ordnance

The "Oltcult Army Reserve Center" is presently located at 11880 Mosteller Road in Sharonville, Ohio. It is currently the remainder of a larger parcel that was divided sometime since 1940; and now is occupied by "Oltcult", Scarlet Oaks Vocational School, the US Post Office and others.

No allegation has or is being made that any hazardous materials are existent on this site.

The site was reportedly called the "Sharonville Engineering Depot" in the 1940's. It may also have been called "The US Army Sharonville Ordnance Depot".

Reportedly a detachment from Ft. Hayes in Columbus, Ohio served at the site at one time.

A local resident, Mr. John Lunsford was reportedly "a maintenance worker at the facility". He states that it was called the "Sharonville Engineering Depot".

It was reportedly closed in 1946.

Heavy Engineering Equipment was reportedly stored outside; and munitions and Ordnance was stored inside.

The Commanding Officer was Colonel Reostat (deceased?)
The XO was Major (?) Benjamin Radaball (presently living in Leahigla Florida)

A Mr. Emitt Kitchens who lives on Rt. 42 in Pisgah, Ohio also worked at the site.

A Lieutenant (first name unk) Gormley was reportedly the Commander of the munitions section.

A JoAnn Horner (employed by Union Township) states that the site was used to "test search lights"; was serviced by a detachment from Ft Hayes in Columbus, Ohio; there were soldiers stationed there from Marion, Ohio, and from Rossford (Toledo), Ohio.

Mr. Kauffman, this represents all of the information I have on the matter at this time. I would appreciate hearing from your office regarding whether or not your agency will be responding to my request.

It is our desire that we be informed regarding the possibility of the presence or absence of military Ordnance

of any kind disposed of at the Skinner Landfill Site located in Union Township, Butler County, Ohio.

It is further requested pursuant to the Freedom of Information Act that if I am unknowingly requesting Classified DOD information, that I be informed that the material(s) which I am requesting are confidential in nature so that I can respond accordingly.

If I can provide any further information to assist you with my request please contact me using the attached card. Thank you in advance for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

David R. Gully, Administrator
Union Township, Butler County, Ohio

cc: as